ग्रुप V—(डी-1) वेतन प्रति माह रु० 4500/- से 5899/- के बीच

Modernisation of railway system

*45. SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of plans drawn up and being implemented to modernise the railway system; and

(b) the details of the progress made during the last five years in respect of modernisation of railway track, telecommunications, etc.?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) and (b) Some of the noteworthy plans drawn up and implemented, and under implementation for modernising the Railway system in the VIII Plan period are as under:

The Computerised Passenger Reservation System, has been expanded to a large number of locations. During the VIII Plan, the total number of computerised reservation locations has increased from 65 as on 31.3.92 to 271 as on 31.3.96, thus, covering over 92% of the total reservation work load on Indian Railways. It is planned to bring about further improvement in the reservation services by introducing networking arrangements.

Computerisation has been introduced in other areas of railway working including accounting work, certain aspects of personnel management, inventory control, wagon census and interchange, reservation enquiry system, etc.

High-powered Electric and Diesel Locomotives are being imported with transfer of technology for ultimate indigenisation for production. Main Line Electric Multiple Units and Diesel Multiple Units have been introduced on high density traffic routes for the convenience of suburban passengers.

A high speed coach capable of 160 kmph. speed is under trial.

Latest design concrete sleepers, modern rail fastenings and head-hardened rails are being utilised to strengthen the track. Track maintenance is being increasingly mechanised.

Electrification of the high density traffic corridors is being continued.

For enhancing safety, Auxiliary Warning System, Route Relay Interlocking, Solid State Interlocking, Track Circuiting are being extended over the system.

Modernisation of telecommunications include gradual switching over from analog systems to digital systems, which include digital microwave, optical fibre and digital telephone exchanges. Microprocessor based public address system informing passengers on platforms about the status of the train running is being provided at important stations. Railways are also introducing universal train radio communication system between driver, guard and the nearest station to enable immediate response in case of emergencies/ accidents.

Construction of stadia for the National Games in Bangalore and Mysore

*49. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Games will be held in Bangalore as per the revised schedule or they will be postponed again; and

(b) whether Government propose to come forward to help the Government of Karnataka to complete the construction of the stadia which has stopped due to shortage of funds and help the National Games to be held in time?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S. R. BOMMAI): (a) The National Games will be held in Bangalore and Mysore from 8th to 19th December, 1996 as informed by the Karnataka Government.

(b) The Central Government has taken a decision to sanction block grant of Rs. 8.00 crores for completing the construction of stadia to hold the National Games in time.

Introduction of more "Palace on Wheels" trains

*50. DR. D. VENKATESHWAR RAO: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) Whether it was decided at the Tourism Ministers Conference held at New Delhi on 5th August, 1995, that "Palace on Wheels" trains are to be introduced in various places;

(b) if so, whether this train is also being introduced in the State of Andhra Pradesh;

(c) Whether his Ministry are considering introduction of tourist train in the South-Central Railway originating and terminating at Hyderabad; if so by when;

(d) Whether the A.P. State had also requested that Hyderabad should also be included the proposed trains orginating from Bangalore and via Madras, Kanyakumari, etc., and

(e) if so, the decision of Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) The Conference was organised by the Department of Tourism, Government of India. The minutes of the conference and resolutions adopted as circulated by the Tourism do not indicate such decision.

(b) and (c) Upon a request received from the State Government of Andhra Pradesh for introduction of a tourist train originating and terminating at Hyderabad, it was conveyed by the Ministry of Railways that the proposal can be considered subject to the State Government agreeing to bear the capital cost of construction of the train, operational cost and sharing of revenues between the State Government and the railways in an agreed proportion as per extant instructions in force. The response of the State Government is awaited.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) The request was examined and found not feasible.

Sanction of Angul-Manewar of Talcher-Sambalpur Railway Line in Orissa

*51. **SHRI SANATAN BISI:** Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Revised Estimated cost for Angul-Manewar of Talcher-Sambalpur (Orissa) Line has been sanctioned:

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the target date for its completion?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) The Revised Estimate for construction of a new B.G. line between Talcher and Sambalpur received from Railway is under examination with the Technical Directorates of this Ministry. However, the same is not yet sanctioned.

(b) The corrected revised estimate has been received on 30.5.96 from the Railway and is uner examination in this office.

(c) December, 1997, subject to availability of resources in 1997-98.

Construction of over Bridge on 'Double Fatak' in Hissar.

*52. SHRI RAMJI LAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 'double fatak' in Hissar remains closed for 23 hrs. out of 24 hrs., irrespective of whether the train is passing or not, causing avoidable harassment to the public in Hissar;

(b) whether Government have already asked the State Government for constructing an over bridge or an under bridge on this Fatak; and

(c) if so, the reasons for not starting the work thereon?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) At the initiative of State Govt. works of construction of Road over/under bridges in replacement of level crossings are planned jointly by the Railways and State Govt. and considered for inclusion in Railways' Works Programme after completion of all preliminary pre-requisites by State Govt. In this case, planning and preliminaries are yet to be completed by the State Government.

मध्य प्रदेश में विश्वविद्यालय अनुदान आयोग की योजनाओं का कार्यान्वयन

*53. श्री दिलीप सिंह जूदेव: क्या मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) मध्य प्रदेश में विश्वविद्यालय अनुदान आयोग की कौन-कौन सी योजनाएं इस समय कार्यान्वित की जा रही हैं और इस संबंध में अब तक हुई प्रगति का ब्यौरा क्या है;